

WELLESLEY COLLEGE,
WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS.

Nov. 30, 1915.

DEPARTMENT OF
ENGLISH LITERATURE.

My dear Mr. Dole:-

If you had not the reputation of being the kindest man of letters in Boston-- though Mr. Amos Wells is a close rival-- I should not have sprung a request for so large a favor upon you, under circumstances that made it easier to accept than to refuse. The fact is, I was a ~~great~~ deal concerned when I heard Mr. Frost read his poems, for the reading was evidently so difficult for him that I wondered how he would be able to keep it up for a continuous hour. I felt sure he would stand in need of an elder brother to fill in the pauses and cover up the embarrassments. I am writing tonight to suggest to Mr. Frost that any comments he cares to throw in on his principles of rhythm, view of realism, etc., would be most

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welcome. I see that he talks more easily than he reads. I only wonder that so sensitive a poet can bring himself to face an audience at all.

I do not know whether you may have taken a ticket for these poem recitals, but we should of course be glad to send you any additional tickets that you may like to have for Mr. Frost's reading. It comes, as you may or may not remember, at three o'clock Monday afternoon, January tenth, at the Vendome. Miss Hazard, our ex-President of Wellesley, introduced Mrs. Evans, whom I wish you might have heard, and I am hoping to persuade our friend, Mrs. Josephine Preston Peabody Marks, to introduce Miss Lowell.
And so she will.

But Mr. Frost evidently will need to have his elder brother sit beside him throughout, and cheer him on to the end.

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There is nobody who could do it better, and
I am infinitely obliged to you for your
generous consent.

Very sincerely yours,

Katharine Lee Bates.

7 June 1963 - gift of John Alden, Keeper of
Rare Books, Boston Public Library (Home of the
original)

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